

3 killed, others escape with injuries over farmland in Niger

By Wole Mosadomi

State Police Command
Spokesman, Wasiu

Abiodun, promised to get back with details.

But he did not get back at the time of this report.

MINNA—THREE persons were yesterday killed, while several others escaped with various degrees of injuries following a violent communal clash in Lavun Local Government area of Niger State over a disputed farm land.

Besides the casualties, many houses were razed in the two villages of Boku and Doko.

It was gathered that dangerous weapons including dane guns and cutlasses were freely used by both sides.

A source from the area told *Vanguard* that the clash started at about 5.30am yesterday when farmers from Doko town were said to be going to their farms and were allegedly attacked by people from Boku community.

Angered by the development, the Doko farmers immediately mobilized from their villages and launched a reprisal attack on their Boku counterparts.

It was gathered that the injured had been rushed to General Hospitals in Kutigi and Bida.

To escape the violence, many of the villagers from the areas have fled to safer areas.

It was reported that the Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar, had intervened severally over the disputed land which was said to have been in contention for about 50 years without success.

When contacted, the

CPS: Buhari approves payment of retirees' outstanding pension liabilities

By Victor Ahiuma-Young

A B U J A — NATIONAL Pension Commission, PenCom, yesterday announced President Muhammadu Buhari's approval for the payment of outstanding pension liabilities of the Federal Government retirees under the Contributory Pension Scheme, CPS, especially retirees of Treasury-funded Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies, MDAs.

In a statement, management of PenCom, said: "The President has approved payment of outstanding accrued pension rights for verified and enrolled retirees of treasury-funded MDAs that retired but are yet to be paid their retirement benefits, as well as the back log of death benefits claims due to beneficiaries of deceased employees of treasury funded MDAs, Payment of 2.5 percent differential in the rate of employer pension contribution for FGN retirees and employees which resulted from the increase in the minimum pension contribution for employers from 7.5 percent to 10 percent in line with Section 4(1) of the PRA 2014 and Payments for retirees and existing employees would take effect from July 2014.

"It is worthy to note that subsequently, the Federal Government of Nigeria is expected to continue with the payment of the 10 percent rate of employer pension contribution for its employees, thus ensuring a remittance of at least 18 percent monthly (employer 10 percent and employee 8 percent) as provided by the PRA 2014. 3. Funds have already been made available for the settlement of the above stated pension liabilities.

"Accordingly, remittance into the various Retirement Savings Accounts, RSAs, of the affected retirees and employees is currently being processed. The affected retirees and employees would be notified in due course by their respective Pension Fund Administrators, PFAs. The settlement of the outstanding accrued pension rights of verified and enrolled FGN retirees and compliance with the reviewed rate of pension contributions are significant developments that have resolved the challenges in these aspects that have lingered since 2014."

The statement added "the Board and Management of the Commission, reiterates their appreciation to Mr. President for his untiring support and commitment to the implementation of the Contributory Pension Scheme and ensuring welfare of retirees."